M

Dept. (1952) Department.

MS. SERIES.

G.U. No.	159
Dated	18-1-1952

[Despatch Abstract.]

COMMITTEES - Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee, South Kanara, South Kanara - Recommendation regarding Forests Orders - Passed.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
ABSTRACT.
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Committees - Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee, South Kanara - Recommendations regarding forests - Orders - Passed.

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DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

G.O.Ms.No. 159. Dated 18.1.1952.
Read again:-

G.O.Ms.No.1420 Dev. dated 10.4.1950
Read also:-
From the Chief Conservator of Forests No.19633/50 D1 dated 12.11.1950.
From the Chief Conservator of Forests No.19633 50/D1 dated 20.3.1951,

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ORDER:

The Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee, South Kanara constituted in the G.O. cited made the following recommendations under the head "Forests":-

(1) All the Schemes of further forest reservation in the South Kanara District may be deferred for sometime to come.

Steps to mitigate the menace of wild animals.

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(3) The strip so cleared should be assigned permenently by the Revenue Department to the adjoining pattadar or pattadars.

(4) The further strip of 100 yards should be kept un assigned as a buffer between the private holding and reserved forest. Ryots should however be permitted to clear the scrup and undergrowth on it and further on the reserved Forest itself upto a maximum total distance of half a mile from the original patta holding subjec to the restrictions contained in the Notification issued in 1922 as amended in C.C.P. Routine No.762/47 dated 5-9-1947.

(5) The concessions specified in the notification should be made permanent and renewals made annually as usual till now rendered redundant.

(6) The measures proposed in recommendation Nos. 2 to 4 above may be applied in general to a number of Reserved Forest areas in the Western part of South Kanara District classified as non Malnad, as all the villages round about these forests suffer the same hardships as those in Malnad but to a little lesser degree, since the strength of population is able to hold at bay and resist the evils much better.

(7) A general revival of Kumri system of cultivation as of old is, apart from its being detrimental to the interest of the forests, unworkable for all practical purposes.

(8) Grazing fees may be abolished altogether and the permit system done away with.

Permission to remove green leaves and fuel from the reserves:

(9)The existing concessions are sufficient for the present and they need not be enlarged further.

*** (2) The Forest Department should clear outright upto a distance of 100 yards from the private buildings, cutting and disposing of all the standing trees and jungle growth thereon;

10. The concessions for the free removal of green leaves from the reserved forests from the special coupes reserved for the purpose should be given widest publication in all the concerned villages by the Forest and Revenue Departments.

(11) Use of Water from Sources in Reserves by Channels running through them:-

Free permits on a permanent basis may be given once for all to the ryots on their application without compelling them to seek renewal, reserving in all cases, the power to cancel or modify them in cases of misuse or for other substantial reasons.

(12) Rights of Way:

Application may be invited from the public through the village potails and also through the local vernacular papers inviting applications for the necessary pathways desired and to allow such rights of way as far as possible for the convenience of the public. The roads should be permitted to be constructed and thrown OPEN TO the public without requiring them to obtain permits or to pay a fee and without insisting on the annual renewal of such permits.

(13) Misplaces regeneration Coupes: In future coupes should not be allowed close to the cultivated holdings as far as possible.

(14) Assignment of cultivable land in the existing Forest Reserves:-

Statutory provisions may be made to permit long term occupation for about 25 years.

(15) More forests in the district may be placed under the system of panchayat management.

(16) Protection of crops from wild animals:-

Adequate measures should be taken to protect cattle and crops from wild animals. The scale of rewards should be increased and the production of the dead animal or the skin, claws etc. at the taluk office which involves a lot of trouble, inconvenience and expense to the parties should be dispensed with and the procedure should be simplified.

(17) The existing rules may be relaxed so as to liberalise the grants of timber and fuel required for bonafide domestic and agricultural purposes in the villages. The Government have examined these suggestions in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests and proceed to pass the following orders:-

Item (1) above:- No general order as suggested by the Committee can be issued. Each proposal will have to be considered on its merits. The Committee's Recommendation is therefore not accepted.

Items (2) to (4) and (6) above: The Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that a considerable extent of the most accessible and workable part of the Reserve Forests containing valuable timber will be lost permanently by a general disreservation of the 100 ~~year~~ yards belt. He has however no objection to veryexceptional cases of hardship being considered individually provided such cases ~~of hardship~~ are for and all other remedies are exhausted. As regards the assignment of 100 yards, belt or strip, he considers that it is bound to result in the extension of cultivation and further demands for for the shifting of the boundary and will not in any way mitigate the evils arising from Malaria and wild animals. He is of the view that the existing concessions granted by the Forest Department are adequate. The Government accept the views of the Chief Conservator of Forests. However in individual cases, where the forests approach the village, appropriate areas may be cleared.

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Item (5) above:- The annual renewal of the concessions is necessary to check misuse. The Committee's recommendation is not accepted.

Item (7) above: The recommendation of the Committee is accepted.

Item (8) above:- The existing grazing fee of 3 annas per cow or bull and 5 annas per buffalo for the privilege of grazing for the whole year is very low and is already a concessional rate granted by Government and the Chief Conservator of Forests is not in favour of allowing free grazing which will involve the loss of an annual revenue of about Rs.10,000/- The suggestion of the Committee is therefore negatived.

Item (9) above:- No action is called for on this recommendation of the committee.

Item (10) above:- The Committee's recommendation is a accepted and the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Collector of South Kanara are requested to take necessary action in the matter.

Items (11) and (12) above:- The Chief Conservator of Forests agrees in priciple with these two suggestions, but he considers that the legal implications of these suggestions have to be examined. It is however considered that the water should not be given free on a permanent basis, as this would most certainly lead to abuse and that the regulation of the use of such water should be made by permits and the Collector authorised to fix the rates of charge for such use. The Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to submit detailed proposals in each case after examining the legal implications involved in consultation with the Board of Revenue.

Item (13) above:- The Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended that no change is called for, as the regeneration areas are selected according to the suitability of the soil for the improvement of the forest and are closed only for a period of 5 years including the year of felling and as the inconvenience if any is very temporary. The recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forests is accepted and the suggestion of the Committee is negatived.

Item (14) above:- The Chief Conservator of Forests does not agree with the recommendation of the Committee, as no area can be released for food crop production without affecting the growth and development of the forests. His view is accepted and the recommendation of the Committee is negatived.

Item (15) above:- This recommendation of the Committee is apposed to the general policy of the Government and it is not accepted.

Item (16) above:- Orders on this recommendation will be issued separately.

Item (17) above:- The Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to examine the suggestion of the Committee further and submit detailed proposals for consideration of the Government.

/By Order of etc./

Sd.xx
Secretary to Government.

To
The Chief Conservator of Forests.
The Board of Revenue(L.R).
The Collector of South Kanara.
Copy to Revenue and Finance Departments.

/True copy/

Superintendent.
Madras Record Office.

SS/31.7.